GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:423
ANSWERED ON:01.12.2015
e-Waste
Azad Shri Kirti (JHA)

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

(a) whether e-waste is in the list of hazardous items and there is a ban on toxic waste by the order of Apex Court in 1999;
(b) whether the quantity of e-waste generated in the country was 1.5 lakh tonne in the year 2006 and as per the report of the United Nations, 17 lakh tonne e-waste was produced by India last year;
(c) whether more than 50,000 tonne e-waste is being imported from America and other countries;
(d) if so, the steps taken by the Government to check this; and
(e) the system of disposal of e-waste and the number of centres functioning at present?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) FOR ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

(SHRI PRAKASH JAVADEKAR)

(a) e-waste, if not handled or disposed of in an environmentally sound manner may be harmful. Business in hazardous waste is also regulated under Hazardous Waste (Management, Handling and Transboundary Movement) Rules, 2008. Hon'ble Supreme Court in WP No.657/95 in December, 1999 inter alia ordered "if there is any importer who had imported hazardous waste against the order of this Court, then the Union of India should ensure that such an exporter does not benefit from such import".

(b) Based on a survey carried out by the Central Pollution Control Board in 2005, the generation of e-waste in the country was assessed as 1. 46 lakh ton. As per the United Nations University report, "The Global E-Waste Monitor 2014", 17 lakh ton of e-waste was generated in the country in 2014.

(c)& (d) No permission for import of e-waste for disposal purposes has been granted by this Ministry under the provision of Hazardous Waste (Management, Handling and Transboundary Movement) Rules, 2008 in the last four years (to be amended).

(e) As per the provisions of e-Waste (Management and Handling) Rules, 2011, Producers under the Extended Producers' Responsibility are responsible for channelizing e-waste to registered dismantlers/recyclers having environmentally sound dismantling and recycling facilities. Presently there are 148 registered dismantler/recyclers in the country.

To ensure better implementation of management of electronic waste, Ministry has published draft e-Waste Management Rules, 2015. The provisions of this Draft Rule include expanding producers' responsibility, setting up of Producers' Responsibility Organizations, and e-waste Exchange, assigning specific responsibility to bulk consumers of electronic products for safe disposal, providing for economic incentives for collection of electronic waste, and other measures to include dedicated responsibility of electronic and electrical product manufacturers for collection and channelizing of electronic waste. Simultaneously, the Ministry has also published draft Hazardous and Other Waste (Management and Transboudary Movement) Rules, 2015 with an aim to simplify and decentralize the import procedures of the specified wastes. Under the proposed Rules the user industries intending to import the specified industrial inputs will not be required to take separate authorization rather the Consents to Operate granted by State Pollution Control Boards will be sufficient authority. The proposal is to decentralize the import approval at SPCB level on the basis of approved standard operating procedure by the Ministry. The proposed amendment prohibits the import of household wastes, solid plastic waste, waste electronic assembly scraps and tyres and direct reuse.

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